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Our sacred Duty to Our Country today
by
General K.M.Cariappa (Retired)
1977.

The tens of millions of our Country men and women who are devotees of the goddess called "Freedom of thought, of speech and of the Press and of the liberty one should have as Citizens of Democratic India" demonstrated their faith and confidence in the Janatha and CFD parties by voting for them in millions to get them to govern our country. This new Government is led by one of the greatest sons of our land, a TRUE Gandhian - look, simple, honest, modest and dedicated, to bring happiness all round to the under-privileged millions in our Mother land. Shri. Morarji Desai, our Prime Minister, is now our Country's leader. It behoves every one of us in whose veins runs the blood of a TRUE INDIAN, to loyally and dedicatedly, as disciplined Members of the great Team of INDIA 77, to implement the Plans and Projects of our able Prime Minister and his gallant Team, he has chosen of able Ministers to fulfil the solemn promises the Janata Party made to the millions of Voters during the Elections. I hope every one in our Government today will work ceaselessly as a United Team - look, with a spirit of devotion and dedication for the cause of good and happiness of our simple millions and remove from their minds that horrible thing called "FEAR".

Our Prime Minister has often expressed his readiness to listen to ANY representation of anybody on any policy matters of the Government which the people may not be happy about. This shows the bigness of his mind. So, I hope there will be in every Village, and in our Urban areas, small bodies of specially chosen, by the people themselves, individuals, under a good Leader, to keep in constant touch with the daily happenings in their respective zones and elsewhere in the Country, which may be causing domestic and economic unhappiness to the people. People MUST speak out freely and frankly in a constructive spirit on such matters to point out the "errors" of those in authority. They have a right to speak. Constant criticism and condemnation of the previous regime does not

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help. The urgent need of the day is to ensure that we have a clean and efficient administration which can be had by good planning by the Government at all levels and the people being really law abiding citizens in every respect. Truth, moral integrity and discipline, individual and collective, are absolutely essential in EVERY one of us to build a prosperous, peaceful, plentiful and powerful India.

I much hope our Government will go flat out to give the under privileged millions, a life of self respect and dignity, by their not having to go a begging for money to buy their essential needs for the living of themselves and of their children, by providing for them opportunities to earn to enable them to have at least one if not two Square meals a day, a roof to sleep under, clothes to wear, literacy and medical aid. There should be good inter communications, roads, transport, railways, Air Services and Postal services. There should be Social Justice and National Security, Freedom of Worship and Freedom of Speech. The prices of Foodstuff of all kinds and of the ordinary cloth, which the millions of the under-privileged class need for their daily use, MUST be brought down to the level of their 'poor-pockets', IMMEDIATELY. This is a MUST for our Government. Let us not ~~xxxx~~ talk of POVERTY all the time and say 'poverty will be removed in 10-15 years time'. The millions want to see Concrete evidence of prices being brought down Now and SOON.

Our Hindu Dharma is GREAT. Some 80% of the people of India are Hindus. Amongst us we have a small percentage of our people called HARIJANS. A Christian Harijan can enter a Church, A Muslim Harijan can enter his Mosque and a Sikh Harijan can enter his Gurudwara, for their respective prayers but why do we not allow ~~xxxx~~ Hindu Harijans to enter our Temples for their prayers. This objection on the part of the non-Harijan Hindus is MOST Sinful. On this score, I feel ashamed to be a Hindu. Our Government will, I hope issue orders that HARIJANS will be permitted to enter our Temples for their prayers and any one disobeying this order must be severely punished.

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We must work, work and work to earn our living and to develop our Country and NOT go a begging to prosperous Countries for Financial Aid. It is said that even after THIRTY YEARS of Freedom we continue to look for Foreign Financial Aid. Japan and Germany were two vanquished countries after Great War II, but today they are two of the most prosperous and advanced Countries, as a result of their very hard work to rebuild their Countries first, and not getting involved in affairs of other Countries, language issue, border disputes, Communal interests etc., which seem to have plagued us these last thirty years.

Let us not expect our Government to convert India into a land of 'milk and honey' overnight. They have been in the Chair only a few months. Our Country with its vast population has many gigantic Economic, Industrial, Social, Health and Educational Problems. Unless the people are law-abiding Citizens giving their best of disciplined-Loyal and dedicated Service to the Nation even the best thought out plans cannot be effectively implemented.

I hope the Labour Class will have their domestic problems properly looked into and helped to overcome them, by all the authorities concerned. Lip Service does not help.

At the Political level I hope the craze for power, for personal benefits for oneself or for those of the old Political Parties they belonged to, will not raise its ugly head. Only the BEST persons must be chosen to hold high offices.

There should be an EXTENSIVE drive to make all the Harijans and Scheduled Class People literate and Technical minded. They should have the BEST Teachers in their Schools and Institutions.

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to enable them to have adequate education and training to hold their own against the privileged class of today. They should be eligible to hold high jobs on their own MERITS and NOT just because they are HARIJANS etc. Standards should not be lowered. This may take ~~xxx~~ time but we should not lower the standard of administrative work merely to please some. All this should have been done immediately after 15th August 1947.

Let every one of us in whose veins the TRUE blood of an INDIAN flows, take a Vow here and now that we will always be 100% INDIANS with complete loyalty to our Motherland and to our Heritage, we will always love our Country and we will always SERVE our Country with the highest standard of TRUE HONESTY and DISCIPLINE.

Our Motto should be :-

DESH BHAKTI - DESH DHARMA - DESH SEVA

Jai Bharat

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(K.M.Cariappa)

Poonacha,
Madikeri,
Kodagu,
Karnataka.